

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN
SUBJECT: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE: SUMMARY OF 57TH MEETING, DECEMBER
20, 1976

1. SUMMARY: COMMITTEE CONCLUDED ACTION ON REVISED ESTIMATES
UNCTAD. REJECTED UK PROPOSAL (BASED ON ACABQ SUGGESTION)
THAT QUESTION OF LIMITED ACCESS MEETINGS BE SENT TO COMMITTEE
ON CONFERENCES; SRI LANKA HAD EARLIER WITHDRAWN
PROPOSAL THAT ISSUE GO TO TDB. VACANCIES AND NEW POSITIONS
WERE FILLED ON COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS. APPOINTMENTS
TO THE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE OF THE PENSION SYSTEM WERE
CONFIRMED. ELECTIONS TO STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE WERE HELD.
END SUMMARY.

2. PROGRAM OF WORK.
(A) BYELORUSSIA INTRODUCED DRAFT DECISION (A/C.5/31/L.55)
PROVIDING FOR POSTPONEMENT UNTIL 32ND GA OF FOLLOWING AGENDA
ITEMS: 92(A) - PROGRESS REPORT; 92(E)I - COMPREHENSIVE
STUDY OF THE QUESTION OF HONORARIA; 92(E) II- SERVICES
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PROVIDED BY THE UN TO ACTIVITIES FINANCED FROM EXTRA-BUDGETARY
RESOURCES; 92(E)III-ORGANIZATIONAL NOMENCLATURE IN THE SEC-
RETARIAT; 92(E)V- GENERAL PROCEDURES AND ADMINISTRATIVE
ARRANGEMENTS GOVERNING THE UN HABITAT SETTLEMENT
FOUNDATION; 92(E) VIII-REVISION OF THE UN FINANCIAL
REGULATIONS; 92(E)X - ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INFORMATION UNIT IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS; 92(E) XI- IMPLICATIONS OF EXTENDING PENSION FUND COVERAGE TO CERTAIN FORMER STAFF MEMBERS FOR SERVICES WITH UNRWA DURING THE PERIOD 1950 THROUGH 1960; 92(E) XII- TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS IN THE PRODUCTION OF PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION OF THE UN; 95 - REVIEW OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXPERT MACHINERY DEALING WITH THE FORMULATION, REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS AND BUDGETS.

(B) CONTROLLER DEBATIN POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE TO DEFER ITEM 92(A) - PROGRESS REPORT. ACABQ CHAIRMAN MSELLE OBSERVED THAT IF DECISION WERE TAKEN TO DEFER ITEM 92(E)X (INFORMATION UNIT IN ESA) THE PROJECT PROPOSED BY THE SYG THEREIN SHOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN EVEN WITH FUNDS OUTSIDE THE REGULAR BUDGET UNTIL GA HAD CONSIDERED THE SYG REPORT. BYELORUSSIA WITHDREW ITEM 92(A) AND THE REST OF ITS DECISION WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.

3. ITEM 92 - REVISED ESTIMATES UNCTAD.

(A) SRI LANKA (BRECKENRIDGE) STATED THAT IN ORDER NOT TO PROTRACT THE DISCUSSION, IT WOULD WITHDRAW OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH THREE OF ITS DRAFT DECISION WHICH WOULD HAVE REFERRED LIMITED ACCESS MEETINGS QUESTION TO TDB. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (THOMAS) SAID IT SUPPORTED OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH ONE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FLEXIBILITY OF UNCTAD DID NOT IMPLY ANY SUPERSEDING OF THE SYG'S AUTHORITY; IT SUPPORTED PARAGRAPH TWO WITH THE INTERPRETATION THAT THE DESIRED STRENGTHENING OF UNCTAD MEANT A RESHUFFLING OF RESOURCES RATHER THAN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY NEW POSTS. SRI LANKA ACCEPTED THIS INTERPRETATION OF THE TWO PARAGRAPHS. BUDGET DIRECTOR LAVAU SAID HE SAW NO FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS IN PARAGRAPH UNCLASSIFIED

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TWO, BUT RATHER A RE-ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES. DRAFT DECISION WAS ADOPTED 86-9(EES)-5(US). US (NORBURY) STATED IT HAD ABSTAINED BECAUSE OF DOUBT ABOUT THE INTENT OF PARAGRAPHS ONE AND TWO.

(B) IN REPLY TO QUESTION FROM UK, CONTROLLER DEBATIN SAID THERE IS NOTHING IN UN FINANCIAL REGULATIONS WHICH PRECLUDES THE USE OF APPROPRIATED BUDGET FUNDS FOR LIMITED ACCESS MEETINGS; THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER A PARTICULAR ITEM WAS IN THE BUDGET. HE POINTED OUT THAT FINANCIAL RULE 114.5 APPLIED IN THE CASE OF THE MANILA AND MEXICO MEETINGS OF THE G-77; THE RULE HAD BEEN ADHERED TO IN THAT FULL REIMBURSEMENT HAD BEEN MADE TO THE UN FOR CONFERENCE SERVICING COSTS. WHETHER OR NOT UNCTAD SHOULD CONTINUE THIS ACTIVITY WAS A POLITICAL QUESTION WHICH MUST BE DECIDED BY MEMBER STATES. UK (STUART) SAID IT WAS NOT CONVINCED BY DEBATIN. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SUPPORTED UK PROPOSAL TO REFER THE ISSUE TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES, AS THE ACABQ HAD SUGGESTED. SRI LANKA SAID IT WOULD BE DETREMENTAL TO UN PRIORITIES FOR THIS ISSUE TO BE TAKEN UP BY COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES, AS WELL AS A VIOLATION OF SEVENTH SPECIAL

SESSION DECISIONS. EGYPT ALSO OPPOSED. UK PROPOSAL WAS REJECTED 26 (US, EE'S, MOST WEO'S, TRINIDAD/TOBAGO)-45-20.

4. ITEM 101 - APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VANCANCIES.

(A) COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS. BY CONSENSUS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT HENNES (USA), KATO (JAPAN), AND SERVANESCU (ROMANIA) BE APPOINTED TO FILL VACANCIES IN CC MEMBERSHIP RESULTING FROM EXPIRING TERMS. BY SECRET BALLOT, DEINDE-GEORGE, NIGERIA- 81 VOTES; EL-SHIBIB, IRAQ-73; VARGAS SABORIA, COSTA RICA- 64; KOSCHORRECK, FRG- 57; AND STOFOROPOULOS, GREECE, 56 WERE ELECTED TO THE FIVE NEW PLACES ON THE COMMITTEE. SHARMA, NEPAL- 53 AND TYLNER, CZECHOSLOVAKIA - 49 FAILED TO QUALIFY. BY LOT IT WAS DECIDED THAT DEINDE-GEORGE, EL-SHIBIB AND STOFOROPOULOS WOULD SERVE FOR THREE YEAR TERMS; KOSCHORRECK WOULD SERVE A TWO YEAR TERM; VARGAS SABORIA WOULD SERVE A ONE YEAR TERM. AFTER THE RESULTS WERE ANNOUNCED USSR, POLAND, AND BYELORUSSIA PROTESTED THAT AN ALLEGED AGREEMENT THAT THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE EXPANDED
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BY ONE MEMBER FROM EACH REGION HAD BEEN VIOLATED. EACH RESERVED THE RIGHT TO RAISE THE MATTER AGAIN AT ANOTHER TIME. GHANA (SEKYI) SAID IT UNDERSTOOD PRINCIPLE OF EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION REFERRED TO TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE, NOT TO JUST A PART.

(B) CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE OF PENSION SYSTEM MADE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL. BY CONSENSUS COMMITTEE ADOPTED SYG'S REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF NEHRU (INDIA) FOR THREE YEAR TERM AND APPOINTMENT OF THREE NEW MEMBERS; FARIA (BRAZIL), RACZKOWSKI (POLAND), BOTH FOR THREE YEAR TERMS; AND SHISHIDO (JAPAN) FOR TWO YEAR TERM.

(C) ELECTIONS TO STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE. BY SECRET BALLOT MAJOLI, ITALY - 71 VOTES; GARRIDO, PHILIPPINES - 65; OKEYO, KENYA - 62 WERE ELECTED FULL MEMBERS. KUTTNER, US -47 AND MARPAUNG, INDONESIA - 41 FAILED TO QUALIFY AS FULL MEMBERS BUT WERE SELECTED AS ALTERNATES BY ACCLAMATION ALONG WITH SCHMIDT, FRG, WHO HAD NOT ENTERED THE CONTEST FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP. UK WITHDREW ITS CANDIDATE RHODES SINCE SEVEN HAD PRESENTED THEMSELVES FOR SIX PLACES.
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